(d) While providing additional liquidity, the restriction of 36 working days in a quarter, will ensure that States manage their finances in a more disciplined manner.

(e) Transactions between a State and the RBI is conducted as per an agreement between the two. Since disclosure of information on Overdrafts by the States, impinges upon the relationship between the banker and the clients (between the RBI and the State Governments), such information is not published/made public by the Government of India.

(f) The overdraft facility extended by RBI are availed by States to overcome the temporary cash imbalances due to mismatch between receipts and expenditure of the State Governments.

Private insurance operators

2707. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private Insurance Companies including Foreign Multinational Companies which are permitted to operate in India;

(b) the number and names of such companies which are operating in rural sectors;

(c) the number of persons below poverty line, if any, who have been insured by such companies together with the terms and conditions of the insurance; and

(d) the distribution of such insured persons State-wise and year-wise during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has informed that they have issued Certificate of Registration to 12 life insurance and 8 non-life insurance companies in private sector.

(b) to (d) All the insurance companies have to underwrite a specified quantum of insurance business for rural and social sectors under the IRDA (Obligations of Insurers to rural or social sectors)

Regulations, 2000. However, there is no obligation for the insurance companies to conduct business for persons below poverty line or state-wise.

Settlement of Mediclaims

2708. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 31 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th February, 2003 and state:

(a) the number and name of the designated hospitals recognised for the purpose of settlement of mediclaims of the policy holders in the different States;

(b) whether the number of such hospitals is inadequate to the actual requirements which often lead to a delay in the settlement of claims;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to augment their number and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the maximum amount of cashless mediclaims admissible under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Transfer of Income Tax appeals

2709. SHRI MOOL CHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to recommend the transfer and hearing of income tax appeals against Search and Seizure of Companies to Delhi for final decision; and

(b) if so, who will be the appellate authorities?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for transfer and hearing of Income-tax appeals against search & seizure cases of Companies to Delhi.